

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

Summary Minutes

May 15, 2003

Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room

SPU Operations Control Center

2700 Airport Way South

Seattle, WA

Members and Alternates Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Frank Urabeck (NW Marine Trade Association), Steve Foley (WDFW), Sam Wright (WA Trout), Dennis Moore (Muckleshoot Tribe), Chuck Wischman and Bill McKay (Puget Sound Anglers)

Other Participants: Chuck Johnson (WDFW), Brodie Antipa (WDFW), Joan Thomas (WDFW), Dave Seiler (WDFW), Bill Robinson (member of the public) and Paul Faulds (SPU)

I. Call to order

Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

II. Approval of agenda

Members unanimously approved the meeting agenda.

III. Meeting minutes review and approval from March 12th

Members unanimously approved the meeting minutes from March 12, 2003.

IV. Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead Parties to the LMA approval of the proposal to install PIT tag readers in the fish ladder at the Hiram Chittenden Locks and tracking adult coho above Landsburg with telemetry equipment

Members received copies of the MOA from the Parties to the LMA, which approved two proposals recommended for funding by the AFC at the March 12 meeting: (1) Installation of adult PIT tag readers in the locks and (2) tracking adult coho above the Landsburg Dam.

Update on PIT tag reader project

Paul F. provided members with a brief update on the installation of the PIT tag readers at the locks. He provided members with a draft letter that could be sent from the AFC to the ACOE and WDFW that documented the projects status. Three items were addressed in the letter and discussed with members. First, if the feasibility study demonstrated the project met the core requirements for installation of the PIT tag readers, the ACOE should establish itself as the lead agency and appoint a project manager. Second, of the

\$50,000 WDFW committed to the project only \$31,000 was currently allocated to the feasibility study, creating a potential \$19,000 shortfall for the project. The WDFW funding was only available until June 30, 2003 and the funding may no longer be available after that date. Third, there is a possibility the installation of the PIT tag detectors could be delayed until 2004, which may result in a funding shortfall from the City of Seattle commitment. Paul explained that the \$50,000 committed by the City for the project was from the 2003 budget and not 2004 budget.

Status of steelhead genetic fieldwork

Bruce reminded members that the Parties to the LMA (specifically NOAA Fisheries) required additional discussion to take place on the sample size and the application of the genetic study results prior to additional funding approval for the project in 2004. He noted that WDFW has spent considerable time and effort developing the study and collecting samples. Bruce felt the best way to address the Parties concerns was to develop an AFC subcommittee with Tom Sibley (NMFS) as the lead. The subcommittee could address the questions developed by NMFS and others concerning the study. Members approved of this approach however some felt the initial questions should be developed by prior to forming the subcommittee. Bruce said SPU would help to put together an initial list of questions for the subcommittee.

V. Cedar River sockeye hatchery program

HSRG findings

Bruce reported that the Hatchery Scientific Research Group (HSRG) sponsored an event in Olympia with dignitaries attending from around the state. The event marked the completion of certain milestones in the HSRG process. Members were provided with copies of the HSRG recommendations for the Cedar River interim hatchery program and the new program. The HSRG noted some deficiencies associated with the present hatchery and noted that these would be addressed in the proposed hatchery design.

Hatchery Design

Bruce provided members with an informal briefing on the new hatchery design and layout. Bruce noted that the design consultant is working with DIPAC in Alaska (Eric Prestegard) and WDFW (Brodie, Joan, and others). He explained that the temporary housing proposed at the facility is no longer an option because of increased project costs. Dennis asked for the estimated project costs. Bruce answered \$11.5 million and indicated that this is higher than the HCP commitment.

General Contractor/Constructor Manager (GCCM) selection process

Bruce reported that the City of Seattle had decided to go through the GCCM process for the hatchery design/construction. He said the GCCM approach was used on the Landsburg Fish Passage Project with good success. He noted that although the hatchery program was still going through the SEPA process because of the EIS appeal, the sooner the GCCM is on board the better as one important benefit is having the GCCM contractor's advice during the design phase. Bruce briefly described how the GCCM contributes to design and has a maximum allowable cost (MAC) built into the contract. The MAC is regulated by Washington State law and restricts the GCCM to no more than

30% of the actual construction work. The two companies under consideration are CCI and NMC.

Interim Hatchery Water Supply

Bruce reported to members on the water supply for the interim hatchery. Members received a handout that identified incubators from broodyear 2002 that were contaminated with IHN. He explained that the hatchery protocols were very successful in isolating IHN at the hatchery and preventing it from spreading throughout the facility. This resulted in the successful release of over 15 million fry. However, he noted the FEIS appeal was hampering some of the efforts to proceed with a phased approach to providing greater protection of the water supply. The SEPA process must be completed before permits can be approved.

VI. Public comment (scheduled for 11:30)

Bill Robinson (formerly representing Trout Unlimited on the AFC) felt the previous discussion was very good and should lead into discussion on how to implement or change elements of the program based on collected data and analysis. He also recommended the AFC consider support for a small captive broodstock program to preserve the steelhead population in the Cedar River.

VII. Information and discussion items

Expected sockeye return and setting egg take goals for 2003 – Brodie Antipa

Brodie noted that the estimated sockeye return for Lake Washington in 2003 would be about 150,000 fish. The return should be large enough to set an egg take goal of 17 million. He provided members with a draft of the egg collection goals for 2003.

Preliminary discussion of weir protocols for 2003

Brodie provided members with the draft weir protocols for 2003. The protocols were unchanged from last year and members were encouraged to make comments by the next meeting.

Weir permitting for 2003

Brodie reported that Hal Michaels is not available to work on permits anymore. There was some discussion if WDFW Engineering would do the permit work. Brodie added that WDFW had already applied for the conditional use permit for the King County Park.

Discuss AFC membership

Bruce noted that King County had attended 2 AFC meetings in the last 16 months and that Paul was in contact with KC on their participation. Paul reported that Kate O'Laughlin (KC) said KC would be represented at the next meeting. Frank reported that he is retiring from NWMTA at the end of July and Trout Unlimited was requesting that he be appointed to fill the seat vacated by Bill Robinson.

Hatchery FEIS appeal and PDR

Bruce reported the City of Seattle submitted a brief to the hearing examiner to have the appeal by Roz Glasser dismissed. If the appeal goes forward the hearings are set for June 25 & 26.

Draft report from Dave Seiler - 2002 Cedar River Sockeye Salmon Fry Production Evaluation (AFC review)

Bruce asked members to review the draft report 2002 Cedar River Sockeye Salmon Fry Production Evaluation report and provide written comments to Dave in two weeks. Bruce recommended members send their comments to Paul F. so he could synthesis them and email them to Dave. This would reduce duplicity and have the comments reflect the views of the AFC as a whole.

Final report from Dave Beauchamp - Early feeding demand and food supply of sockeye salmon fry in Lake Washington

Bruce noted that Dave Beauchamp's final report was distributed to members. He felt the timing of the report was significant because the research included a year when approximately 52 million fry entered the lake. This is the highest level recorded since fry estimates began in 1992.

June 19th AFC meeting fieldtrip to Landsburg to tour fish passage facility and discuss fish passage operational guidelines

Bruce informed members that next AFC meeting on June 19th will be at Landsburg and one of the items will be guidelines and protocols for the fish passage facility. Items that will be considered include hauling, broodstock, release location, evaluation of adults, and tagging fish.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.